

systems may come and go without disturbing his peace. What we need to realize more fully is, that religion is something that each may lay hold of for himself, and that no one need stop to ask what his opinions are, or whither scientific theories are tending, before taking a determination in the matter. Science is one thing and Religion quite another. Science consists of such truth as the intellect can attain to. Religion is true loyalty of heart and life to the voice of Conscience with the best light of Duty that we know. In other words, Religion is "true love, loyalty, and obedience to ETERNAL TRUTH and GOODNESS"—that is, to GOD OUR SAVIOUR—*Star*.

GOOD HUMOR IN THE FAMILY.

GOOD HUMOR is rightly reckoned a most valuable aid to happy home life. An equally good and useful faculty is the sense of humor or the capacity to have a little fun along with the humdrum cares and works of life.

We all know how it brightens up things generally to have a lively, witty companion who sees the ridiculous points of things and can turn annoyance into an occasion for laughter. It does a great deal better to laugh over some domestic mishap than to cry or scold over it. Many homes and lives are dull because they are allowed to become too deeply impressed with a sense of the cares and responsibilities of life to recognize its bright and especially its mirthful side. Into such a household, good but dull, the advent of a genial humorous friend is like sunshine on a cloudy day.

While it is always oppressive to hear persons constantly striving to say funny things, it is comfortable, seeing what a brightener a little fun is, to make an effort to have some at home. It is well to turn off an impatient question sometimes, and to regard it from a humorous point of view, instead of being irritated about it. "Wife, what is the reason I never can find a clean shirt?" exclaimed a good but rather impatient husband, after rummaging all through the wrong drawer. His wife looked at him steadily for a moment, half inclined to be provoked; then, with a comical look she said: "I never could guess conundrums; I give it up." Then he laughed, and they both laughed, and then she went and got his shirt, and he felt ashamed of himself and kissed her, and then she felt happy; and so what might have been an occasion for hard words and unkind feelings became just the contrary, all

through the little vein of humor that cropped out to the surface.

Some people have a peculiar faculty for giving a humorous turn to things when they are reproved. It does just as well oftentimes to laugh things off as to scold them off. Laughter is better than tears. Let us have a little more of it at home.—*Exchange*.

WHAT MADE JOHN RUSKIN.

JOHAN RUSKIN, in his autobiography, tells of the foundation on which the character of this remarkable man was reared. It was the work of his mother.

"After our chapters (from two to three a day, according to their length), the first thing after breakfast (and no interruption from servants allowed, none from visitors, who either joined in the reading or had to stay upstairs, and none from any visitings or excursions, except real travelling), I had to learn a few verses by heart, or repeat to make sure I had not lost something of what was already known; and, with the chapters thus gradually possessed from the first to the last, I had to learn the whole body of the fine old Scotch paraphrases, which are good, melodious and forceful verses, and to which, together with the Bible itself, I owe the first cultivation of my ear in sound."

Mr. Ruskin prints his mother's list of the chapters "with which, thus learned, she established my soul in life." It is as follows:—Exodus, chapter xv. and xx.; 2 Samuel i., from the 17th verse to the end; 1 Kings viii.; Psalms xxiii., xxxii., xc., xci., ciii., cxiii., cxix., cxxxix.; Proverbs, chapters ii., iii., viii., xii.; Isaiah, chapter lviii.; Matthew, chapters v., vi., vii.; Acts, chapter xxvi.; 1 Corinthians, chapter xiii., xv.; James, chapter v.; Revelation, chapters v., vi. "And truly," Mr. Ruskin says, "though I have picked up the elements of a little further knowledge—in mathematics, meteorology, and the like, in after life—and owe not a little to the teaching of many people, this maternal installation of my mind in that property of chapters I count very confidentially the most precious, and, on the whole, the one essential part of all my education."—*Central Presbyterian*.

[This is truly an excellent selection of lessons. Let every parent go and do likewise.]

HUMAN things must be known to be loved; but divine things must be loved to be known.—*Pascal*.